

**AGENDA ITEM III E**

**PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM**

**MCNEESE STATE UNIVERSITY**

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ATHLETIC TRAINING**

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#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

McNeese currently offers a concentration in Athletic Training (AT) within its B.S. in Health & Human Performance. However, the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) revised standards for entry-level programs, mandating that by 2014-2015, only students graduating from CAATE accredited programs **with a degree or major in Athletic Training** would be eligible to sit for the National Athletic Trainers Association Board of Certification (NATA-BOC) examination.

Given that a previous concentration exists in this area of studies, the staff agreed to consider this proposal without first going through a Letter of Intent stage. To ensure, however, that Letter of Intent issues are not overlooked, the staff has examined planning conditions associated with this request and has concluded that Letter of Intent concerns have been appropriately addressed (no desegregation impact, use of existing funding sources, appropriate to role/scope/ mission, not unnecessarily duplicated.)

#### **STAFF ANALYSIS**

##### **1. Description**

CAATE requires that Educational Competencies be used for curriculum development and student education for all accredited entry level programs. These competencies make clear to educators the knowledge and skills to be mastered by students. They were derived by the National Athletic Trainers' Association as necessary for effective performance by beginning certified athletic trainers (ATC) in providing services to patients/clients of differing ages, genders, lifestyles, employment, circumstances and needs.

From the proposal:

*The Competencies are categorized into Foundational Behaviors of Professional Practice and twelve content areas (see below) comprising the knowledge and skill set of the entry-level athletic trainer. Further, the Competencies are sub-categorized according to the following behavioral classification:*

- a. *Cognitive Domain (knowledge and intellectual skills)*
- b. *Psychomotor Domain (manipulative and motor skills)*
- c. *Clinical Proficiencies (decision-making and skill application)*

*In addition, there are 12 content area expectations:*

- a. *Risk Management and Injury Prevention*
- b. *Pathology of Injuries and Illnesses*
- c. *Orthopedic Clinical Examination and Diagnosis*
- d. *Medical Conditions and Disabilities*
- e. *Acute Care of Injuries and Illnesses*
- f. *Therapeutic Modalities*
- g. *Conditioning and Rehabilitative Exercise*
- h. *Pharmacology*
- i. *Psychosocial Intervention and Referral*
- j. *Nutritional Aspects of Injuries and Illnesses*
- k. *Health Care Administration*
- l. *Professional Development and Responsibility*

*Clinical area requirements are defined as follows:]*

*CAATE also requires that the athletic training curriculum must include provision for clinical experiences under the direct supervision of a qualified clinical instructor (CI) in appropriate clinical settings and shall not exceed a ratio of eight students to a CI. Clinical instructors must be physically present, have the ability to intervene on behalf of the athletic training student(s), and provide on-going, consistent education at the site of the clinical experience. The number of students assigned to a CI in the clinical experience component must be of a ratio that will ensure effective education in the clinical setting.*

To accommodate CAATE requirements, a one hundred twenty-four (124) semester credit hour curriculum is proposed, incorporating seven (7) new ATS courses plus the requisite general education and other required related courses.

## **2. Need**

The State of Louisiana required that Athletic Trainers are licensed, a process governed by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (LSBME). Previously, completers of the AT concentration have been allowed to sit for the LSBME examination. However, LSBME now requires NATA-BoC for license eligibility. McNeese plans to apply for CAATE accreditation during the 2008-09 academic year with the on-site visit anticipated for Spring 2009. This schedule should allow for achievement of accreditation in time for graduates of the proposed program to sit for the NATA-BoC examination.

From the proposal:

*The athletic training concentration at McNeese State University supplied qualified Certified Athletic Trainers to the Southwest gulf coast region. When national standards led to the discontinuation of the Internship Route or concentration to national certification eligibility, MSU relied on the State of Louisiana eligibility standards to supply area athletic trainer positions. During advisory committee meetings with the university's external partners, discussions were held regarding requests for athletic injury assistance from K-12 districts, athletic program coaches, as well as others within the McNeese State University service region. Regional high school administrators expressed strong interest in the need for appropriate health care for their athletes and requested assistance from MSU. Student enrollment and interest in the program is strong. The benefit of an educational program within the region to address this need became obvious. Regional athletic training employment opportunities have grown significantly and are expected to continue to grow.*

The following entities are currently affiliated with the athletic training concentration including (but not limited to) the following:

- a. Parish School Boards: Calcasieu, Jeff Davis, Cameron, Allen, Beauregard, Acadia
- b. Physical Therapy Clinics: Out Patient Physical Therapy of Lake Charles Memorial Hospital; Calcasieu Rehab and Sports Physical Therapy; Physical Therapy Clinic of Jeff Davis Parish
- c. Physician's Offices: Dr. David Drez, MD; LSU Health Sciences Center, Family Practice; LSU Health Sciences Center, Orthopedics; Branch Chiropractic Center

### **3. Students**

The proposal states:

*The athletic training concentration will admit a maximum of 8 sophomore / junior-level students each year into the clinical phase of the program. The concentration currently has three (3) students on track to graduate in May 2009 and five (5) students on track to graduate in May 2010. According to the fall 2007 enrollment statistics, the concentration has a candidate pool consisting of 35 entry level students who are currently in Health and Human Performance – General, and have the HHP - athletic training concentration as their declared major.*

<u>Level of Student</u>	<u>Admission</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Anticip. Grads.</u>	<u>Year Grad.</u>
First Year	6	30	3	2008-09
Second Year	8	35	4	2009-10
Third Year	8	48	8	2010-11
Fourth Year	16	48	16	2011-12
Fifth Year	16	48	16	2012-13

*With the approval of this proposal, students will be introduced to the educational program during their freshman year through an introductory course, one lecture, and an*

*observational clinical experiences course. Additionally, the current maximum of 8 students selectively admitted from the candidate pool, will be increased to a minimum of 16 students per year into the clinical phase of the program. As the program grows, new faculty members can hopefully be hired to accommodate the number of applicants into the program.*

#### **4. Faculty**

The proposal indicates:

*The current faculty members in the athletic training concentration will continue in the proposed program. With the hopeful growth and increase in student numbers, the department recognizes that the proposed program will need one additional faculty member, increasing the total FTE from 2.5 (current and adjusted for adjunct faculty) up to 3.5.... The Department of Health and Human Performance will reassign one faculty member who currently teaches in the health promotion concentration to the athletic training concentration. The health promotion concentration is being phased out due to low enrollment and low market demand; the faculty member holds appropriate credentials to teach courses in the athletic training concentration.*

#### **5. Library**

Current holdings in Frazar Memorial Library for the Athletic Training concentration and sources available through LOUIS will be adequate to initiate the proposed program.

#### **6. Facilities & Equipment**

The major will utilize the facilities currently used for the concentration; updates to facilities and equipment will not exceed the normal depreciation.

#### **7. Administration**

The proposed program will be housed in the Department of Health and Human Performance in the Burton College of Education. The proposed program will continue to be interdisciplinary, utilizing coursework in allied health sciences, biology, health and human performance as well as general education courses. The proposed program will not impact the present administrative structure of the department, college or university.

#### **8. Accreditation**

McNeese's intention to seek programmatic accreditation by CAATE was provided as the rationale for need of the proposed AT program. The University states that it intends to hire a CAATE consultant prior to the visit to assure successful candidacy and to facilitate achievement of approval. Costs of application for and maintenance of accreditation are projected in the budget.

## 9. Costs

The Department of Health and Human Performance submits the estimated costs to offer the proposed program as presented below. Most of these are existing costs of offering the concentration in Athletic Training. All additional costs will be assumed into the Department's operating budget and covered by institutional reallocation; no additional funds will be requested. Travel expenses provide for annual CEU requirements for faculty to maintain their certifications as Athletic Trainers.

### SUMMARY OF ESTIMATED COSTS FOR PROPOSED PROGRAM

	Year 1 (2008-09)		Year 2 (2009-10)		Year 3 (2010-11)		Year 4 (2011-12)	
EXPENSES	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE
Faculty	\$ 101,000	2.5	165,000*	3.5	170,000	3.5	175,000	3.5
Benefits**	35,350		57,750		59,500		61,250	
Accreditation	7,000		4,000		4,000		4,000	
Equipment	3,000		3,000		3,000		3,000	
Travel	1,500		3,000		3,000		4,000	
Supplies	500		500		500		500	
TOTAL Expenses	\$148,350		\$233,250		\$240,000		\$247,750	
REVENUE								
State Appropriations	\$148,350		\$233,250		\$240,000		\$247,750	

\* Reassignment of current faculty

\*\* Benefits are calculated at 35 %

### STAFF SUMMARY

The rationale for revising the existing AT concentration into a major is sound, as eligibility of graduates to sit for the certification examination is essential for licensure. Interested students are present and will shift into the major such that the first graduates are anticipated for the 2008-09 academic year. To accommodate curricular and personnel requirements of CAATE, the specialized accreditor for AT, one additional full-time faculty will be transferred within the Department into the AT program. All necessary faculty, facilities, equipment, library resources and administrative structure are present to support the program.

As is standard for programs for which specialized accreditation is mandatory, conditional approval with reporting until achievement of accreditation is appropriate.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

*The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs committee grant conditional approval for the proposed B. S. program in Athletic Training Science (CIP Code 51.0913) at McNeese State University, effective immediately. Beginning August 1, 2009, and annually on that date until a CAATE program accreditation has been achieved, the University shall submit a progress report to the Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs addressing the following:*

- 1. Numbers of student enrollees and graduates;*
- 2. Placement of these graduates;*
- 3. Findings of the CAATE consultant hired to assess the potential candidacy status of the AT program at McNeese; and*
- 4. Progress toward CAATE program accreditation.*